

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /081 W

-----101605Z 124511 /53

R 101520Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3164

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0167

CINCPAC FOR THE POLITICAL ADVISOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI, KS, JA

SUBJECT: VISIT TO KOREA AND JAPAN OF GOL DEFENSE MINISTER

HARRY GREAVES

1. GOL DEFENSE MINISTER HARRY GREAVES SPENT DECEMBER 16 TO 20 IN SOUTH KOREA AS AN OFFICIAL GUEST OF THE ROK AND STOPPED OVER IN JAPAN DECEMBER 20-21 ON HIS RETURN TRIP TO LIBERIA.

2. ACCORDING TO GREAVES, PRIME MINISTER PARK AND DEFENSE MINISTER SUH EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER REMARKS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA. THEY SAID THAT THEY HOPED WHATEVER ACTION THE NEW ADMINISTRATORS MIGHT TAKE WOULD ONLY BE AFTER EXTENDED CONSIDERATION OF ALL IMPLICATIONS, AND IMPLEMENTED GRADUALLY. PARK AND SUH TOLD GREAVES THAT, AS A RESULT OF POSSIBLE U.S. ACTION, GOL SUPPORT TO THE ROK IN THE U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES WAS OF INCREASING IMPORTANCE. THEY ALSO SPOKE OF THEIR DESIRE FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC TIES WITH LIBERIA. A PRIVATE ROK TRADE GROUP ARRIVED IN MONROVIA JANUARY 5.)

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3. DURING A COURTESY CALL BY GREAVES ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE JAPANESE DEFENSE AGENCY, THE PRINCIPAL TOPICS OF DISCUSSION WERE THE STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER REGARDING WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM KOREA AND POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS IN THE U.S. DEFENSE BUDGET. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL EXPRESSED THE VIEW, ACCORDING TO GREAVES, THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER,

ON ASSUMING OFFICE, WOULD BE IMPRESSED WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF SOUTH KOREA TO THE SECURITY OF JAPAN AND TO THE MAINTENANCE OF REGIONAL STABILITY IN NORTHEAST ASIA.

4. GREAVES COMMENTED JANUARY 4 TO THE CHIEF OF THE U.S. MILITARY MISSION/LIBERIA THAT THE APPEARANCE OF A WEAKENING OF THE U.S. MILITARY POSITION (I.E., WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA AND DEFENSE BUDGET CUTBACKS) COULD HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE IMPACT IN AFRICA WHERE COMMUNIST PRESSURES HAVE BEEN GROWING.

5. GREAVES WAS IMPRESSED BY THE RECEPTION GIVEN HIM IN SOUTH KOREA AND BY THE INDUSTRY AND DISCIPLINE OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, IF THE OBVIOUS EMPHASIS ON DISCIPLINE DID NOT LESSEN THE SPIRIT OF INITIATIVE AMONG KOREANS.
CARTER

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Message Attributes

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